



# Beaver County Emergency Services

## Quarterly Newsletter - Volume 3, Issue 2

### BEAVER COUNTY'S TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM

By Dave Trzcianka

The Beaver County Technical Rescue Team (TRT) officially started responding to calls as an organized team in 2005. At that time, the need for advanced specialized rescue in the county was realized after several incidents occurred that involved subjects trapped and /or requiring assistance beyond the capabilities of regular Fire Department response. The TRT consists of manpower, apparatus and equipment from the Aliquippa Bureau of Fire, Baden Fire Department and Chippewa Township Fire Dept. The team leaders are Chief Dave Foringer, Chief Dave Trzcianka, and Chief Don Knight. Members of participating departments have undergone hours of training in specialty response, including Structural Collapse, Trench Rescue, Confined Space, Rope Rescue (both high and low angle), and Swift-water Rescue. There are currently 50 members certified in at least 3 of the disciplines listed, although most team members have additional training. Specialized equipment has been acquired by the TRT by way of departmental funds, state and local grants, donations of materials, and through the Pennsylvania Southwest Regional Counterterrorism Task Force, also known as Region 13.

The TRT responded to 9 calls in 2005 and 2006. These included 1 trench collapse, 7 structural collapses and 1 train derailment. In 2007, the TRT responded to 3 calls. One call involved an injured person in a trench in South Beaver Township, the next was a house that exploded in Harmony Township due to a natural gas leak, and the last call involved an elderly male who fell into a partially empty septic tank in Hanover Township (please see response photos on following page).

The TRT meets quarterly for training, updates and equipment familiarization, with each member department taking turns hosting those sessions. Each department has additional trainings throughout the year, be it in the county or across the state, to maintain response proficiency.

Due to the amount of time involved in gearing up for a call, the TRT is automatically toned by the 911 Center for any incident that may need a specialized response. However, the TRT feels that they can have at least one unit on scene within 30 minutes anywhere in the county due to the locations of the participating stations. If the TRT is needed and an agency or individual has not been informed that the team has been toned, 9-1-1 users are asked to specifically request the TRT. If the team is not needed on scene, they can be cancelled at any time; the goal is to insure that all patients are extricated and accounted for.

The Beaver County TRT also trains and works with TRTs from Butler County, Mercer County, and Northwest Ambulance's TRT from Allegheny County along with the Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Strike Team 1, to which members of the Beaver County TRT also belong.

Any questions in regards to Beaver County's Technical Rescue Team can be referred to any of the team leaders or to the Beaver County 911 Center.

SPRING, 2008

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

- *Technical Rescue Team*
- *Event Flyers: Emergency Preparedness Expos & American Red Cross Spring Fest*

#### IN EVERY ISSUE:

- *EMS News*
- *BCESC News & Notes*
- *Region 13 Updates*
- *Events Calendar*

## TECHNICAL RESCUE RESPONSE PHOTOS



MEMBERS OF BEAVER COUNTY'S TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM WORK TO EXTRICATE AN ACCIDENT VICTIM IN HANOVER TOWNSHIP.



Photos courtesy Beaver County Times



TECHNICAL RESCUE TEAM RESPONDERS WORK TO STABILIZE A HOUSE IN HARMONY TOWNSHIP FOLLOWING A NATURAL GAS EXPLOSION WHICH BOWED THE EXTERNAL BRICK WALLS AND BLEW THE DRYWALL FROM THE INTERIOR.



Photos courtesy Daniel Trzcianka & Kevin Joy



# EMS NEWS

By Eric Brewer,  
Beaver County EMS Coordinator



## Safety.....Safety.....Safety

First and foremost, as of our quarterly EMS meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>, EMSI advised the group that there have already been 8 crashes involving EMS units in the EMSI region. This was only 36 days into 2008. In most cases, EMS personnel can perform the initial care required to stabilize the patient's condition to a point where the small amount of time gained by lights and siren transport will not affect the patient's medical condition or outcome. Please use caution when responding to and from scenes.

**Refresh yourself with protocol 123-BLS for lights and siren use.**

## Flu Season

Flu season is in high gear. The number of statewide influenza reports for the week ending February 9<sup>th</sup> was higher than any weekly count from the previous four influenza seasons. There has also been a change in the predominant types of influenza reported. For the week ending February 9<sup>th</sup>, 60% of specimens were typed as H3, 24% as B and 15% as type H1. Seasons in which H3 strains predominate traditionally have higher activity than seasons in which H1 strains predominate. ***Vaccination remains the best method for preventing flu and its potentially severe complications.*** October or November is the best time to get vaccinated, but getting vaccinated in December or even later can still be beneficial, since most flu activity occurs in January or later in most years. Though it varies, the flu season can last as late as May, and sporadic cases of flu occur year round. We all know what this means to us in emergency services: an increase in ambulance requests which puts an additional strain on an already burdened system across the country. (Information obtained from the PaDOH HAN)

## Mark 1 Kits

At the last county EMS meeting, all of our local services were given their Mark I kits that were purchased by the Region 13 Task Force. Just what is a Mark 1 kit? Mark 1 kits are self administered auto-injectors used when personnel are exposed to nerve agents and have signs and symptoms of nerve agent exposure. The kits are just like the epi-pens that we know, except these auto-injectors contain 2mg of Atropine and 600mg of Pralidoxime Chloride (2-PAM). There should be 3 kits per person in each unit for a total of 6 per unit. ***Mark 1 kits are for the crew members' personal protection.*** We currently have a couple people going through a train the trainer class put on by the 171<sup>st</sup> National Guard Medical group. **Protocol 8083, Nerve agent/ Pesticide exposure addresses this situation.**

Some signs & symptoms of nerve agent exposure are:

- Unexplained runny nose
- Tightness in the chest
- Difficulty breathing
- Bronchospasm
- Excessive Drooling
- Vomiting
- Abdominal cramps
- Jerking, twitching
- Excessive sweating
- Drowsiness
- Coma
- Convulsions

The next **Beaver County EMS meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup>.

**EMS Week** is May 18-24, 2008. The theme is "EMS: Your Life is Our Mission".

As always, for any EMS concerns or issues, please get in contact with me at [ebrewer@beavercountypa.gov](mailto:ebrewer@beavercountypa.gov).



## NEWS & NOTES

- **Quarterly training for Beaver County Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators** was held on January 22. Kevin Joy and Gene Miketa led damage assessment training, an annual offering for municipal coordinators. The remaining 2008 quarterly trainings have been scheduled for April 22, July 22, and October 21. All will be held at the Emergency Services center with two times available, 1 - 4 PM or 6 - 9 PM. An additional meeting was held on February 21st with the Risk Municipal Emergency Management Coordinators (from municipalities within the Emergency Planning Zone of the nuclear facility) to discuss plans for the **BVPS federally evaluated nuclear exercise** scheduled for June 24th of this year.
- Municipalities have been invited to participate in **NIMSCAST**, an online NIMS compliance tracking tool implemented by FEMA and already in use at state and county levels. The Emergency Services center is also working with non-risk municipalities to update their **Municipal Emergency Operations Plans**. The Notification and Resource section from the state's new planning template was forwarded to municipalities at the end of 2007. Once complete, offices have been asked to return this information to the county to be incorporated into a new EOP.
- Sara Rowe is to be congratulated on her promotion to **full time telecommunicator** status as of mid January. Congratulations are also in order for former trainee Matthew Leonard who "graduated" the dispatch program in February and is now a **part time telecommunicator**.
- The annual **SARA Title III Seminar** was held on February 15. Representatives from over 20 local facilities that use, produce, or store hazardous and/or extremely hazardous substances attended the meeting where speakers from the Beaver County Local Emergency Planning Committee, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security provided important information on chemical reporting and planning updates.
- Representative Jim Marshall's office is coordinating **Emergency Preparedness Expos** on March 8th and 29th in conjunction with the local chapter of the American Red Cross and the Emergency Services Center. The American Red Cross is also hosting their **Annual Spring Fest** the evening of March 29th. Please see the enclosed fliers for more details.

## REGION 13 TASK FORCE UPDATES

- Gene Miketa and Victor Spinelli, Beaver County's part time **Region 13 Task force employees**, are both stationed out of the county's Hazardous Materials response garage on Route 51. With offices situated in the garage loft, Gene and Vic are the contact people for regionally acquired equipment dispersal to county and municipal agencies as well as the go-to-guys for regionally coordinated training activities.
- Speaking of training, in conjunction with ESC Director Wes Hill, Vic has recently registered 11 county hazmat team members for the annual **Northwest PA Disaster Conference** to be held at Penn State Behrend in Erie in early May. Hazmat team members are also scheduled for an **Advanced Rail Car Specialist course** in Pueblo, Colorado in April and an **Advanced Radiological Operations course** in Anniston, Alabama in June. Additionally, **NIMS training** continues, with 2 hazmat team members scheduled to attend **ICS 300 & 400** level courses offered through the Allegheny County Fire Academy in March and April.
- Victor has also been instructing **Hazardous Materials refresher courses** for local law enforcement personnel. In addition to the regularly scheduled refresher trainings (March 12, June 25, September 17, & December 17 at 1PM at the Hazmat Garage), he has been making time for individual departmental trainings as needed.
- Gene and Vic can be reached at 724-891-3828.

## MARCH 2008

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- **5th:** Hazmat Team training, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **8th:** Hazmat Team make up training, 9 AM, Hazmat Garage & Emergency Preparedness Expo, 10 AM - 1 PM, Chippewa VFD
- **9th:** United Valley REACT, 6 PM & Daylight Savings Time begins
- **11th:** LEPC Meeting, 2:30 PM
- **12th:** Hazmat Refresher training for LE, 1 PM, Hazmat Garage & Firefighters Association Meeting, 7 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **13th:** Hazardous Weather Exercise
- **19th:** Hazmat Team training, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **20th:** Spring Begins
- **21st:** Good Friday Holiday, County Offices Closed
- **22nd:** Hazmat Team make up training, 9 AM, Hazmat Garage
- **23rd:** Easter Sunday
- **26th:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM
- **29th:** Emergency Preparedness Expo, 10 AM - 1 PM, Bridgewater VFD & American Red Cross Spring Fest, 7 PM, Beaver Falls Holiday Inn

## APRIL 2008

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- **2nd:** Hazmat Team training, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **9th:** Firefighters Association Meeting, 7 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **10th:** American Messaging Paging Representative, 10:30 AM - 1 PM
- **16th:** Hazmat Team training, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **20th:** United Valley REACT, 6 PM
- **22nd:** Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator Quarterly Training, 1 - 4 PM or 6 - 9 PM
- **23rd:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

## MAY 2008

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- **6th:** EMS Providers Meeting 10 AM
- **7th:** Hazmat Team training, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **13th:** LEPC Meeting, 2:30 PM
- **14th:** Firefighters Association Meeting, 7 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **18th:** United Valley REACT, 6 PM
- **18th - 24th:** EMS Week
- **21st:** Hazmat Team training, 6:30 PM, Hazmat Garage
- **22nd:** BVPS Quarterly Meetings with Counties, 10 AM & 1 PM
- **26th:** Memorial Day Holiday, County Offices Closed
- **28th:** Public Safety Commission Meeting, 7:30 PM

ALL EVENTS LOCATED AT THE BEAVER COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

# Floods...Fires...Storms...

*Whatever the type of emergency,  
your family needs to be prepared.*

To ensure the safety of your family and home,  
plan to attend one of State Rep. Jim Marshall's  
Emergency Preparedness Expos.



*Rep. Jim Marshall*

Special safety and first aid info from the American Red Cross, plus  
information from Beaver County Emergency Services and demonstrations by  
local fire companies. Special Red Cross Emergency backpacks  
to the first fifty attendees at each Expo.

**Saturday, March 8**

**10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Emergency Preparedness Expo**

Chippewa Township Volunteer Fire Department  
2568 Darlington Road in Beaver Falls

*While you're there, stop just up the road to our related event:*

Rep. Jim Marshall's Blood Drive  
Chippewa United Methodist Church  
2545 Darlington Road in Beaver Falls

*Give the gift of life and help our first responders be prepared for emergencies.  
Vintage-styled Red Cross t-shirts to all donors while supplies last.*

**Saturday, March 29**

**10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Emergency Preparedness Expo**

Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Department  
619 Market Street in Bridgewater

*No RSVP necessary. Admission is free.  
For more information, visit [RepMarshall.com](http://RepMarshall.com) or call 724-847-1352.*





# Holiday Inn Beaver Falls presents the 2nd Annual Spring Fest 2008



*ROCK In To Spring with Your Favorite Local Bands:*

**\* Midlife Crisis \***

**\* Eugene and the Nightcrawlers \***

**\* Steel Reserve \***

**Saturday, March 29, 2008**

**Holiday Inn Beaver Falls**

**Cover Charge \$10.00 per person**

**Children Ten and Under \$5.00**

**Doors Open 7:00pm**  
**Food Service 7:30pm - 9:30pm**

**Special Room Discount  
\$99.00!**

*Cash Bar*  
*Drink Specials!*

**\*\*Bring a Cleaning Product or Personal Hygiene Item to Benefit\*\***



**American  
Red Cross**



**New For 2008:  
Chinese Auction!**

**Proceeds Donated to the American Red Cross**



BEAVER COUNTY  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

250 East End Avenue  
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Phone: 724-775-1700

BEAVER COUNTY  
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The Beaver County EMA Newsletter is created and published by the Beaver County Emergency Services Center (BCESC).

The BCESC is a division of Beaver County government, under the authority of the Beaver County Board of Commissioners. The BCESC manages the county's 9-1-1 dispatch operations center and also serves as the county's Emergency Management office, working under the direction of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) on emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery. The BCESC is also the home of the county's Hazmat Team 700, the Public Safety Commission, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC), and is the contact point for many other public safety organizations, including EMS, Fire, Police, and Municipal EMA services.

The BCESC works in conjunction with a number of county and offsite agencies to provide comprehensive public safety guidance and emergency support to the residents and businesses of Beaver County.

Beaver County Emergency Services  
250 East End Avenue  
Beaver, PA 15009

